Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SANTO 04148 070016Z

60
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-09 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-14 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 SY-02 SCCT-01 FBIE-00

USSS-00 A-01 OPR-01 IO-03 DRC-01 EUR-09 /070 W
---------- 020493
O 062345Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1706

UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 4148

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS
SUBJECT: HUTCHINSON KIDNAPPING - LOCAL RADIO COVERAGE

THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF LOCAL RADIO REPORTING FROM
4:00 PM, SAT. OCT. 5, TO 4:00 PM, SUNDAY, OCT. 6.

1. AFTERNOON AND EVENING COVERAGE AGAIN CONSISTED OF A SUMMARY
OF THE DAY'S EVENTS. THE HIGHLIGHTS WERE: THE TRANSFER OF THE
ARRESTED JOURNALISTS AND MENDEZ VARGAS' WIFE TO LA VICTORIA;
THE FAMILIES OF THE HOSTAGES REQUESTING THE DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT
BE MORE FLEXIBLE IN VIEW OF MENDEZ VARGAS' HAVING LESSENED
HIS DEMANDS; AMBASSADOR HURWITCH'S STATEMENTS THAT HE HAD
NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT GENERAL GUZMAN ACOSTA'S STATEMENT
WAS NOT THE OFFICIAL POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THAT
ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT BALAGUER WAS IN THE INTERIOR THIS WEEKEND,
HE WAS IN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH THE CAPITAL AND COULD RETURN
TO SANTO DOMINGO WITHIN 90 MINUTES; EX-PRESIDENT JUAN BOSCH'S
SAYING THAT EVERYONE KNEW THAT THE IMPRISONED JOURNALISTS
WERE NOT INVOLVED IN THE KIDNAPPING; THE VENEZUELAN VICE-
CONSUL'S WIFE SAYING THAT HER HUSBAND'S PHYSICAL CONDITION
IS NOW MORE SERENE BECAUSE HE HAS RECEIVED HIS
MEDICINE; THE IDENTITY OF THE SEVENTH HOSTAGE AS A UNIVERSITY
STUDENT; AND MAXIMO ARES, FATHER OF ONE OF THE HOSTAGES,
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SANTO 04148 070016Z

SAYING THAT HE HAD BEEN ASSURED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WERE GOING ON.

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

2. RADIO COMMERCIAL, IN ITS SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM, "HISTORIA DE LA NOTICIA," DISCUSSED THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE JAILING OF THE JOURNALISTS FROM LA NOTICIA AND RADIO COMMERCIAL, AND MENDEZ VARGAS' WIFE. THIS WAS AN ABUSE OF POWER BY THE GOVERNMENT THAT INDICATED A DECLINE OF THE FREE PRESS. MENDEZ VARGAS' WIFE IS AS INNOCENT AS THE HOSTAGES BECAUSE SHE HAS NEVER SAID ANYTHING OF A POLITICAL NATURE, EVEN WHEN HER HUSBAND WAS JAILED FOR HIJACKING THE VENEZUELAN AIRPLANE. MOREOVER, ALL THE PRESS AND RADIO ORGANS WERE CALLED WHEN THE KIDNAPPERS TOOK OVER THE VENEZUELAN CONSULATE AND THE ONLY REASON REPORTERS FROM LA NOTICIA AND RADIO COMMERCIAL WERE THE FIRST TO ARRIVE AT THE SCENE WAS BECAUSE THEY ARE SITUATED CLOSEST TO THE VENEZUELAN CONSULATE.

3. COVERAGE FROM MID-MORNING UNTIL ABOUT 3:00 PM DEALT WITH THE ACTIVITIES AT THE VENEZUELAN CONSULATE. REPORTS HAD BEEN RECEIVED THAT THE NEXT DELIVERY OF FOOD, MEDICINE, AND CLOTHING WOULD BE AT 12:00 NOON. TWO LITERS OF MILK WERE SUPPOSEDLY GOING TO BE SENT IN, BUT SINCE THE SPANISH PRIEST HAS A KIDNEY CONDITION, AUTHORITIES HAD ALLOWED TWO LITERS OF DISTILLED WATER TO BE CARRIED IN INSTEAT OF THE MILK. AMBASSADOR HURWITCH ARRIVED AT THE VENEZUELAN CONSULATE ALONE (NOTE: ANY PLACE IN THE CORDONED OFF AREA IS REFERRED TO AS "AT THE VENEZUELAN CONSULATE") AND TALKED WITH MENDEZ VARGAS FOR ABOUT 45 MINUTES. THERE WERE UNCONVIRMED REPORTS THAT THE FRENCH EMBASSY HAD AGREED TO GIVE POLITICAL ASYLUM TO THE KIDNAPPERS AND A FLIGHT WHICH WOULD LEAVE AT 6:00 PM WOULD TAKE THE KIDNAPPERS AND THE POLITICAL PRISONERS OUT OF THE COUNTRY. POLICE AND MILITARY FORCES ORDERED ALL THE PRESS REPRESENTA-TIVES TO LEAVE THE AREA NEAR THE VENEZUELAN CONSULATE, QUITE POSSIBLY BECAUSE THE PEOPLE INSIDE THE CONSULATE WERE BEING MOVED AND THE SECURITY OFFICIALS DID NOT WANT PICTURES TAKEN. AN AMBULANCE AND THREE STATION WAGONS FROM THE AMERICAN EMBASSY WERE PARKED IN THE PAKING LOT OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH AT THE CORNER OF AVENIDA BOLIVAR AND LEOPOLDO NAVARRO. GENERAL GUZMAN ACOSTA RECTIFIED HIS DECLARATION THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE A HARD LINE AGAINST THE KIDNAPPERS IN VIEW OF THE DILIGENT EFFORTS OF THE THREE DIPLOMATS WHO WERE ACTING AS A MEDIATION COMMITTEE BETWEEN THE KIDNAPPERS
UNCLASSIFIED

AND THE GOVERNMENT (NOTE: THE ONLY REFERENCE TO SUCH STATEMENT IS IN ONE RADIO TRANSMISSION.)

4. THE "NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE" ARRIVED WITH FOOD, MEDICINE, AND WATER. THEY WAITED IN FRONT OF THE CONSULATE SIGNALLING TO GET MENDEZ VARGAS ATTENTION. THEY THEN WENT INSIDE THE GATE, PRESUMABLY TO TALK WITH MENDEZ VARGAS, WHO REPORTEDLY HAD ASKED TO SPEAK WITH AMBASSADOR HURWITCH OVER THE

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

TELEPHONE. THE POLICE WOULD NOT ALLOW THIS.

4. MENDEZ VARGAS YELLED THAT THE POLICE WERE TAKING WHAT HE CALLED "SUSPICIOUS MEASURES" AND SAID THAT HIS GROUP WAS TAKING MEASURES OF ITS OWN. THE "NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE" ASKED FOR PERMISSION TO MOVE CLOSER TO THE CONSULATE. (NOTE: THE THREE DIPLOMATS ACTUALLY STOOD ACROSS THE STREET.) AND IT WAS GRANTED. TWO MEMBERS OF THE GUERRILLA GROUP THEN CAME OUT TO PICK UP THE FOOD, BUT MENDEZ VARGAS DID NOT COME OUT.

6. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS WHO HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM THE AREA WERE RETURNING AND THE POLICE WAS DISPERSING THEM AGAIN, THIS TIME PLACING THE CORDON FURTHER BACK THEN IT WAS PREVIOUSLY. THE REPORTERS HAD HEARD THAT THE KIDNAPPERS WOULD BE TAKEN TO THE AIRPORT, AN INDICATION THAT THE PROBLEM HAD BEEN RESOLVED. A STATION WAGON, EITHER BLUE OR DARK GRAY, WAS PARKED ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE CONSULATE AND THERE WERE THREE PERSONS INSIDE.

7. THERE WAS EXTENSIVE REPORTING OF THE TREATMENT THE PRESS CORPS WAS RECEIVING. IN ADDITION TO BEING MOVED FROM THE AREA NEAR THE CONSULATE, AN NBC CAMERA CREW WHICH HAD RENTED AN APARTMENT ON THE NINTH FLOOR OF A BUILDING NEAR THE CONSULATE WAS VISITED BY THE POLICE AND IMPEDED FROM TAKING PICTURES. NORTH AMERICAN PRESS REPRESENTATIVES WERE THREATENED WITH IMPRISONMENT IF THEY DID NOT STOP TAKING NOTES AND PICTURES.

8. AFTER THE DEPARTURE OF THE DIPLOMATIS, THERE WERE SEVERAL SPECULATIVE REPORTS. IT WAS UNCONFIRMED THAT 17 RESERVA-
TIONS HAD BEEN MADE ON THE IBERIA FLIGHT. IT WAS ALSO REPORTED THAT 11 OF THE POLITICAL PRISONERS ON THE LIST OF THE 12TH OF JANUARY LIBERATION MOVEMENT HAVE BEEN
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 SANTO 04148 070016Z

TRANSFERRED FROM LA VICTORIA TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS, BUT MATOS MOQUETE'S NAME IS NOT LISTED, ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE AT THE POLICE HEADQUARTERS. AS OF 4:30 PM THERE WERE NO NEW REPORTS, BUT SPECULATION WAS RAMPANT.
HURWITCH

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, PARAMILITARY FORCES, POLITICAL SITUATION, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANTO04148
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740283-0457
From: SANTO DOMINGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741069/aaaacgie.tel
Line Count: 159
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAR 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <05 FEB 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUTCHINSON KIDNAPPING - LOCAL RADIO COVERAGE THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF LOCAL RADIO REPORTING FROM
TAGS: PINS, PDIP, DR, US, VE, SP, (HUTCHINSON, BARBARA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005